Save Foggy Bottom...It's Where We Live!

Published by the Foggy Bottom Association

FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

Vol. 47, No. 20 www.savefoggybottom.com April 26, 2006

Foggy Bottom Folks

You probably have seen all the work being done on the two houses at New Hampshire and H Streets which have shown a lot of neglect in the recent past. Happily, the new owner, **Gary Simon**, is proceeding with dispatch to renovate them, and then plans to move into one of them. Each day improvements in the exterior are visible, while in the midst of all this, he and his fiancée are deep into wedding plans. Gary seems very excited about making his home in Foggy Bottom.

It was bound to happen, but it's much too soon for those of us who have gotten to know him: Police **Commander Robert Contee**, who has commanded the MPD's Second District (Foggy Bottom's police district), has left that post to lead the Special Operations Division. He is not leaving the area, just moving from Foggy Bottom to the SOD's West End headquarters at 23rd and L Streets. Taking over at 2D is **Inspector Andrew Solberg**, who comes from the 1st District.

There is another Contee in the MPD, special policewoman **Buffy Contee**, and although she was assigned to 2D some years ago, she is now working, as I understand it, in the Chief's office downtown. Her diminutive size did not prevent her from duties including rush-hour traffic controller at Washington Circle. Commander Contee is her brother, though there is little similarity in their heights; he is somewhere over six feet; while she is somewhat under five feet.

St. Mary's Court Needlework

One of the many activities offered at **St. Mary's Court** is a creative stitchery class held the first Wednesday of each month. (Next Wednesday, May 3, is the next date.) Participants bring their own projects, learn the basics from "experts," and exchange stitchery tips and conversation. According to The Court Communiqué, the group has taken on a project of knitting scarves for the homeless, and "one member was asked to do an afghan for the Court's Annual Sunday Brunch / Silent Auction; it sold immediately."

– Ellie Becker

Sports Club/LA Happy Hour For FBA Members Thursday

The Sports Club/LA will host an informational happy hour for FBA members this Thursday, April 27, at 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. in its *Z Lounge*. The club is offering discounts to FBA members as part of the FBA's Preferred Merchant Program. For more information, contact PMP coordinator Lisa-Joy Zgorski at 202-293-2529 or *lisajoy@ksg.harvard.edu*, or the Sports Club at 800-716-9802. All welcome!

Kreuzer 'Flabbergasted' by Court Ruling

Dr. Donald Kreuzer lost his "blockbusting" suit against GWU, the D.C. Court of Appeals ruled April 13.

Kreuzer, whose townhome was built around – and in part over – by the university's dorm at 23rd Street and Virginia Ave., told the *FBN* he was "flabbergasted" by the ruling. "I blame Walt Disney, who taught us the good guy always wins," said Kreuzer, who has lived and practiced dentistry at his home since 1975.

He said university president Steven Joel Trachtenberg had told him that if he didn't sell, GW would "build fraternity houses all around you."

Kreuzer said one of his attorneys, John Dienelt, was taken off the case because GWU had a conflict with the law firm, DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary, even though Dienelt had worked for Kreuzer for 30 years.

GW "built over me and under me," he said. "Where I come from, when a neighbor does something that has a negative impact, they're supposed to let you know, but not in D.C." *– FBN*

FBA Set to File Suit to Stop GW Rezoning Plan

The FBA announced last week it will file a lawsuit to stop the D.C. Zoning Commission from approving a new campus plan submitted by GWU.

"While students face staggering tuition costs and overcrowded dorms and classes, the university is instead concentrating on massive commercial real estate adventures like Square 54," FBA President Joy Howell said at an April 18 news conference announcing the planned legal action. Square 54 is the site of the former GWU hospital, which the university wants to redevelop with commercial and residential properties.

"The failure of the [city] to enforce its own zoning regulations threatens the Foggy Bottom residential community with overdevelopment and commercialization – under the cloak of the special exceptions granted universities. This will degrade residential property values in Foggy Bottom," she said.

The school's plan was scheduled to be heard last Thursday, April 20, at the Zoning Commission, after the *FBN*'s press time. The university said in February it planned to ask the commission to approve a new, 20-year campus plan, even as its current 10-year plan expires at the end of 2009. *(See FBN, 2-15).*

Caps, Environmental Concerns

The FBA believes the Zoning Commission should not consider the new campus plan for three reasons. First, the association believes GWU is in violation of its 20,000 cap on students in its existing campus plan.

Second, an Environmental Impact Statement measuring the impact of the proposed new plan, which runs to the year 2025, has not been prepared as required by law.

Third, the FBA notes that the new plan, which includes 1.73 million square feet of new commercial construction intentionally omits about one million square feet of additional development at Square 54 and the planned new dorm at the School Without Walls site *(see FBN, 4-5).*

These omissions violate the zoning regulations requiring the plan to include the campus "as a whole," Howell said.

Citizen Groups in Support

The FBA was joined at the press conference by supporting groups the Committee of 100 of the Federal City and the Federation of Citizens Associations of the District of Columbia.

The Committee of 100 was particularly concerned that the Zoning Commission may not allow citizen groups including Advisory Neighborhood Commissions a voice in determining if a case should be heard. The commission informed the FBA that, contrary to past practice, it will not consider the input of residents, community groups or Zoning Administrator Bill Crews at the April 20 meeting *(see FBN, 4-12).*

"It is wrong for the city to deny residents and community organizations a voice in major development issues," said Barbara Zartman, the committee's immediate past chairman. "We support this lawsuit because D.C. neighborhoods should have a say when their quality of life, their environment and their tax dollars are at stake. GW is not above the law."

Federation president George Clark said that "if the city allows GWU to violate zoning regulations and break its promises to Foggy Bottom residents, it will set a dangerous precedent. The clear message to all neighborhoods struggling to protect their quality of life will be 'Don't bother, we look the other way when developers come calling.'"

Playing by the Rules

"GWU should play by the rules just like everyone else," said Elizabeth Elliott, FBA Executive Board Member and a former Chair of ANC 2A, which represents Foggy Bottom and the West End, and who has lived in the neighborhood for 26 years.

"Its first priority as an academic institution located in the heart of our residential neighborhood should be to fulfill its obligations under the campus plan. GW is an institution of higher learning, not higher earning," she said. *– FBN*

26th Street Park Cleanup Sat.

Come on out and help your neighbors clean up the 26th Street Park Saturday! The semi-annual cleanup at the park, between Eye and K Streets, starts at 10 a.m. on April 29.

THE FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS
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The Foggy Bottom News is published by the Foggy Bottom Association as a service to its members and provides information on FBA and neighborhood news, programs, activities and other events of interest to FBA members. Contributions and story ideas are welcome, but the FBN reserves the right to edit or hold pieces as space requires.

The Foggy Bottom Association was formed by a group of citizens in 1955 and was formally incorporated in 1959. Attendance at FBA meetings is open to all residents of Foggy Bottom and the West End.

FBA Officers:
PRESIDENT – Joy Howell • VICE PRESIDENT – Barbara Spillinger
SECRETARY – Jill Nevius • TREASURER – Russell Conlan
MEMBERSHIP – Edward B. Gable Jr.

FBA Board of Directors:
Ellie Becker, Joseph G. Chaplick, Elizabeth B. Elliott, Jacqueline G. Lemire, Michael G. Malloy, James R. O'Leary, Ronald Cocome (Immediate Past President; *Ex Officio*)

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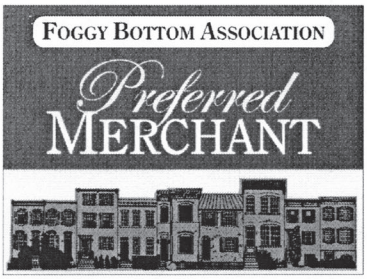

Your Membership Card Works in the FBA's Preferred Merchant Program!

Foggy Bottom Association members receive a variety of discounts from local businesses through the FBA's "Preferred Merchant Program." Look for the logo at these businesses and present your card for these discounts. The membership card also allows FBA members use of GWU's Gelman Library.

20% DISCOUNT

Denny Diaz, Ltd.
522 23rd St. NW
202-296-2767
20% discount off of merchandise;
10% discount off men's and women's alterations

Joseph A. Bank
1200 19th St. NW
202-466-2282
FBA members on first visit receive corporate discount card, which entitles them to 20% discount and other corporate privileges.

Thai Kitchen
2311 M St. NW
202-452-6090
20% discount off all food (excludes alcohol and happy hour specials, 5-7 p.m., M-F)

Grillfish
1200 New Hampshire Ave. NW
202-221-7310
20% off all food (excludes alcohol)

Scogna Formal Wear
1908 L St., NW
202-296-4555
20% off

20% OFF FIRST VISIT, LESSER PERCENTAGE ON ADDITIONAL VISITS

600 Restaurant at the Watergate
600 New Hampshire Ave. NW
202-337-5890
20% discount on first visit,
15% on subsequent visits

David's Hair Studio
1918 Eye St. NW
202-293-3024
20% discount to first time clients,
10% on subsequent visits

Shohreh Day Spa
1712 Eye St. NW, Suite 914
202-452-9300
20% discount on services during first visit,
10% on subsequent visits

Watergate Photo & Copy
2560 Virginia Ave. NW (Watergate Mall)
202-333-7700
20% off for newcomers,
15% on subsequent visits

15% DISCOUNT

Barmy Wines and Liquor
1912 L St. NW
202-833-8730
15% discount on wine; 10% on liquor

Expressions (Fine Clothing)
2000 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
202-775-9299
15% discount on all purchases

Metropolitan Optical
2000 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
202-659-6555
15% discount on all purchases

Primi Piatti
2013 Eye St. NW
202-223-3600
15% off check

The Wine Specialist
2115 M St. NW
202-822-8000
15% off all non-sale items
(includes wine, beer, water and soda);
10% off liquor

10% DISCOUNT

One Fish, Two Fish
2423 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
202-822-0977
10% off total meal bill for dine-in and carry-out; not available on delivery

Williams The Tailor
825 21st St. NW
202-822-8000
10% off general alternation and repair

SPORTS CLUB/LA

The FBA has struck a great deal with the Sports Club/LA health club, adjacent to the Ritz Carlton at 22nd & M Streets. FBA members who join the club by June 1 will pay no initiation fee and receive about 20% off club membership fees. Payment should be made to the FBA, but membership arrangements will be handled by the club. Current club members will benefit too, as FBA members will get the discounted rate, rebating any overpayments when payment for a year's membership is made in advance through the FBA.

Regular membership: Sports Club/LA will waive the $650 initiation fee and charge $1,419/year – a savings of $25/month off normal fees.

Squash membership: Sports Club/LA will waive the $750 initiation fee, and charge $1,639/year – a savings of $27/month off normal fees.